

April 19th 1837

Perquimans County No Carolina
Robert J Robertson

Your letter of 12th March
Is before mee in regard to my
negro Jesse his situation at this
time places it in his power to give
me what he thinks proper. But

I do not feel disposed to make any
title for him for less than Three
Hundred Dollars which is not more
than one third what I could have
had for him before he absconded
If I had bin disposed to sell him
but I have never had any such intention

I should like for him to return to
N Carolina if he should think proper
he may be assured that I will not
sell him But I can not expect it as he
at this time is entirely out of my reach
and may not wish to place himself in
my power again I never intended that he

should be made a slave not longer
than three or four years ^{from the time he left} ~~from the time he left~~ ^{he was} a
man that I had a grate regard for
that I am in hopes will do well

I would like to hear from him from
time to time If he should feel disposed
to give me the above sum he can
forward the money to some one

with Instructions to take a Bill
of Sale

Respectfully your friend
Ophraim Elliott

Reply

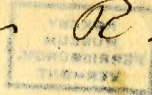
3rd of 8th Mo 1834 -



Ophraim Elliott

Thy letter of 19th ulto was recd last evening
& I regret to find that the sum thou requires for the freedom
of Jenn pleases this desirable object - the most anxious wish
of his heart beyond his reach. Since leaving thy service he has
by his industry & economy laid up 180¢ & he is willing to give
the whole of this sum for his freedom: & the whole of his save-
ings is all that he can offer - for much as I & ~~any~~ his other
friends here may desire his liberty. I am bound to inform
thee without the least wish to offend, that we cannot consi-
derably contribute any thing towards the purchase of a
Slave even for his liberation: because we believe it
would be recognizing a principle which God forbid. If
Jenn was in possession of a larger sum he would surely
offer it all for his freedom, I therefore hope thou wilt feel
disposed to consider the case of one for whom thou hast so great
a regard & accept of an offer which considering his present circum-
stances & location must be a very liberal. Shouldst thou feel
disposed to accept this offer I would propose thy forwarding
the relinquishment of thy title to some person in whom thou
canst confide either in N.Y.C. or Boston who will receive
the money or delivery of thy sd. discharge. Please to inform me
soon of the result of thy mind in the case & accept my own
& Jenn's sincere desires for thy prosperity & happiness
Thy friend
RJE

PD I mention the above named places because that I
can easily find a person in either of those places whom we could
rely upon to accomplish the business. R. W.



[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly a signature or address, visible through the paper.]

ROKEBY
MUSEUM
FERRISBURGH,
VERMONT

23

Howards Bridge
C. W. H. 19th

Robert W. Robertson
North Ferrisburgh
Vermont
Near Canada Line